Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

Initial Request for a Course Addition to the Fall 2014 Core Curriculum

Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy and Culture

In the box below, describe how this course meets the Foundational Component Area description for Language, Philosophy and Culture. Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

The proposed course must contain all elements of the Foundational Component Area. How does the proposed course specifically address the Foundational Component Area definition above?

English 206 is an exploration of contemporary writing in its cultural contexts. Students will be introduced to the major themes and techniques of a number of important writers from this period. The course will focus on the aesthetic and cultural values that mark the literary treatment of contemporary issues and debates, often examining the transformation of old genres to address new concerns. For instance, the course might investigate the ways in which writers are now revitalizing a number of popular genres, returning science fiction and crime literature, for instance, to the mainstream of contemporary literature and finding new modes of expressing and coping with the violence of the new millennium, including the graphic novel and other literary modes that enhance our understanding of visual culture. These texts compel a deeper examination of the meaning of personal ethics and social responsibility. The course also aims to improve the ability of each student to read, understand, and appreciate literary texts.

Core Objectives

Describe how the proposed course develops the required core objectives below by indicating how each learning objective will be addressed, what specific strategies will be used for each objective and how student learning of each objective will be evaluated.

The proposed course is required to contain each element of the Core Objective.

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information):

The course will enhance critical thinking skills through consistent reading and class discussion of key ideas that serve as the foundation for various contemporary literary works. The evaluation of critical thinking skills will be based on exams and class participation and may include evaluation of written work. Exams will be designed to allow students to demonstrate their ability to evaluate and synthesize key ideas from the assigned reading. Class room discussion will focus on helping students better understand the nuances and complexities of contemporary literary works.

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication):

The course will enhance communication skills through small and large group discussion and writing
Texas A&M University

Core Curriculum

Initial Request for a Course Addition to the Fall 2014 Core Curriculum

about ideas, issues, questions, and themes central to course reading including the graphic novel and other literary modes that enhance our understanding of visual culture. The evaluation of communication skills will be based on class participation in discussions and on exams and may include evaluation of written assignments. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the richness of contemporary writing through exams in which they will be expected to effectively convey key ideas from the course succinctly and clearly, and through classroom discussion in which students will learn how to express questions and thoughts about the subtleties of each text, including the graphic novel and other literary modes under examination.

Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities):

The course will enhance social responsibility by providing students with a deeper understanding of how recent history and broader social forces have shaped current writing. The evaluation of social responsibility will be based on the exams and papers which will require students to demonstrate how key insights from the course have helped broaden their understanding of the way differing experiences, cultures, and philosophical outlooks shape the development of a literary tradition, including their own.

Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making):

The course will teach personal responsibility by enhancing students' understanding of how to ethically use sources to craft a persuasive argument/answer to an essay question and by exploring the ways in which personal responsibility has been redefined in our new millennium. The evaluation of personal responsibility will be based upon an assignment in which students will be expected to ethically cite another person's work in crafting an answer or essay response to a specific question. The instructor will offer concrete examples of how to paraphrase ideas and integrate in-text citations in order to construct a persuasive argument. In addition, the assignment will focus on the complex treatment of personal responsibility in contemporary writing, such as one of the post 9/11 apocalypses.

Please be aware that instructors should be prepared to submit samples/examples of student work as part of the future course recertification process.